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Chair: Mr. Tommo Monthe ..... (Cameroon)
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.5/72/L.30)

1. **The Chair** said that peacekeeping budgets were the main focus of the second part of the resumed session and a matter of critical importance to all delegations, as peacekeeping missions constituted the Organization's most concrete and visible tool for addressing conflict throughout the world. At the current part of the resumed session, Committee members would also review the rate of reimbursement to troop- and police-contributing countries, taking into account such matters as the need to improve predeployment training of troops; the complex nature of situations on the ground; issues related to the deployment of female uniformed personnel; challenges specific to the post-deployment phase; and incentives and penalties related to the condition of contingent-owned equipment. In addition to that heavy workload, the Committee would consider the reforms proposed by the Secretary-General in the areas of peace and security, management and development. He was aware of some delegations' concerns regarding the further consideration of those proposals at the current part of the resumed session in the time allotted. However, given that, at the main part of the current session, the Committee had recommended that the Secretary-General should be authorized to change from a biennial to an annual budget period on a trial basis, with preparations expected to begin in 2019, the Committee must take decisions on the proposed reforms as quickly as possible to enable their timely implementation. It could not to do so unless all relevant documents were issued in accordance with the established procedures. The Bureau would inform the Committee of progress in the issuance of documentation and make proposals regarding the use of the time allotted.

2. He invited the Committee to consider the proposed tentative and provisional programme of work for the second part of the resumed seventy-second session, established on the basis of the note by the Secretariat on the status of preparedness of documentation (A/C.5/72/L.30).

3. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, paid a tribute to the men and women serving in peacekeeping operations, in particular those who had lost their lives in the service of peace and security. The Committee must conclude its deliberations in a timely manner to ensure that peacekeeping operations were provided with the resources necessary to fulfil their mandates. While the Group supported the Secretary-General's reform proposals, the consideration by the Committee at the second part of the resumed session of matters unrelated to peacekeeping must be treated as exceptional and should not set a precedent.

4. While the Group acknowledged the efforts of the Bureau of the Committee to disseminate information as soon as possible, it was regrettable that a number of reports to be considered at the second part of the resumed session had been issued late or had not been translated into all official languages in a timely manner, which hampered delegations' preparations for their deliberations. He underscored the importance of multilingualism in that regard.

5. The Group attached great importance to consideration of the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of peacekeeping operations, in particular cross-cutting issues and the peacekeeping support account. At the current part of the resumed session, the Group would focus on ensuring that peacekeeping budgets were based on mission mandates and the real situation on the ground and were not approached as an arbitrary, across-the-board cost-cutting exercise; exploring options to find a fair solution to address unpaid assessments, accounts payable and other liabilities of closed peacekeeping missions so as to settle outstanding claims in missions with cash deficits; comprehensively addressing systemic challenges faced by troop- and police-contributing countries, including by ensuring a fair and realistic reimbursement rate; establishing necessary accommodations for female peacekeepers; guaranteeing adequate representation of such countries in Secretariat departments whose work was related to peacekeeping; and assessing how the Secretary-General's proposed reforms in the areas of management and peace and security would help the Organization fulfil its mandates and make it more fit for purpose and responsive to emerging challenges in the field.

6. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, expressed his condolences on the loss of Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué, Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire to the United Nations. The Group supported the provisional programme of work on the understanding that it would be adjusted during the course of the session to reflect progress made in the Committee's negotiations.

7. At the current part of the resumed session, adequate time should be allocated to consideration of peacekeeping budgets, and the Secretariat must ensure that supplementary information requested by Member States was provided in a timely manner. The Group was concerned that the budget proposals for many peacekeeping missions reflected significant cuts, and would closely examine the basis of the proposals with a

view to ensuring the effective fulfilment of mandates and the security of peacekeepers. As the General Assembly had repeatedly indicated that peacekeeping budget proposals must be based on existing mandates approved by the Security Council, the Group would not agree to an approach that prejudged any mandate.

8. **Mr. Escalante Hasbún** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that CELAC attached the utmost importance to the administrative and budgetary aspects of United Nations peacekeeping operations; it was vital for those operations to have the necessary resources to implement their mandates.

9. CELAC attached great importance to the reports on the financing of individual peacekeeping operations, in particular the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH); the overview of peacekeeping financing and cross-cutting issues; measures against sexual exploitation and abuse; the rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries; the support account; and management and peace and security reform. The Community would actively engage in the discussions on the Secretary-General's reports on management reform and on the revised estimates relating to the restructuring of the peace and security pillar, and requested the Secretariat to adhere to the resolutions establishing the scope of and guidelines for those reforms, in particular with regard to the preparation of the programme budget.

10. CELAC also looked forward to discussing the report on the budget performance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) during the 2016/17 period and the proposed budget for MINUJUSTH for the 2018/19 period. Adequate resources should be provided to enable the continuation under MINUJUSTH of the programmatic activities previously carried out under MINUSTAH. Community violence reduction programmes and quick impact projects should also be maintained, given their crucial role in supporting core stabilization objectives in Haiti, particularly consolidation of the rule of law.

11. As each peacekeeping operation had a stand-alone budget, approved in accordance with its mandate and specific needs, peacekeeping budgets must be considered individually to ensure the effective and efficient discharge of mandates and adequate provision of resources to support programmatic activities.

12. It was regrettable that the Committee had been unable to agree on the necessary reform of the funding and backstopping arrangements for special political missions. The current administrative and budgetary arrangements for those missions were inadequate, and had an adverse impact on the regular budget and the accountability, governance and transparency of the Organization. Those deficiencies must be corrected, as called for by the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Board of Auditors.

13. By its resolution 65/293, the General Assembly had requested the Secretary-General to submit proposals to address the issue of outstanding amounts due to Member States from closed peacekeeping missions that were in net cash deficit. The relevant current and previous reports must be considered and the issue resolved; Member States in arrears to closed missions must meet their financial obligations. Lastly, the Committee must complete its work on time and, to that end, the Secretariat should make every effort to submit reports within set deadlines in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

14. **Mr. De Preter** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, said that documents must be made available in all official languages in a timely manner and that the Committee must conduct its deliberations during normal working hours.

15. As staunch supporters of peacekeeping, which was a core task of the Organization, the States members of the European Union were committed to ensuring that the United Nations maintained peace and security effectively and accountably, and that peacekeeping missions had the necessary resources to carry out their mandates in increasingly complex environments. The European Union commended the hard work and commitment of United Nations peacekeeping personnel under challenging conditions and paid a tribute to those who had lost their lives in the line of duty. It welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to improve the performance, accountability, security and effectiveness of peacekeeping.

16. The primary goal of the Secretary-General's proposed reforms should be to improve the Organization's effectiveness. In that connection, the European Union welcomed the recent General Assembly and Security Council resolutions highlighting the importance of sustaining peace for preventing conflict. The Assembly must take action on all reform initiatives at the current session in order to enable implementation by 1 January 2019, as proposed by the Secretary-General. Given the heavy workload and the

far-reaching implications of the decisions to be taken at the current part of the resumed session, the European Union supported extending the time allotted for the Committee's deliberations.

17. **Mr. Velázquez Castillo** (Mexico) said that the Committee would be responsible for ensuring that peacekeeping operations had the financial resources needed to fulfil their mandates in situations of increasing complexity and security risks. Mexico appreciated the contributions of civil, military and police personnel participating in peacekeeping missions worldwide. The Committee must also take decisions on cross-cutting issues, special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, the Secretary-General's proposed reforms and the global service delivery model.

18. The current part of the resumed session provided a valuable opportunity to assess the status of implementation of the recommendations presented in the report of the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (A/70/95-S/2015/446), in particular with regard to promoting multidimensional policy options and prevention and peacebuilding capacities and activities; advancing solutions in the areas of security, development and human rights; strengthening the role of women in peace processes; and addressing humanitarian issues, with communities and individuals as the ultimate beneficiaries, at each stage of the peace continuum, in cooperation with relevant actors and host States. General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), in which note had been taken of the Panel's recommendations, were at the core of the Secretary-General's proposal to reform the peace and security architecture and increase the effectiveness and coherence of the United Nations system by making sustainable peace the common thread that united the three pillars.

19. His Government was committed to contributing human and financial resources to peacekeeping operations. All Member States must honour their financial obligations to the Organization. In that regard, he recalled that the scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly was designed to reflect Member States' capacity to pay and the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. His delegation would also seek to ensure that MINUJUSTH was provided with adequate resources to address challenges on the ground and to support Haiti in attaining stability and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, Mexico would promote the full implementation of the Organization's zero-tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and abuse, with a particular focus on assisting victims, ending impunity, promoting the involvement of civil society and external partners, and strengthening strategic communications to enhance awareness and transparency.

20. In his report on management reform (A/72/492/Add.2), the Secretary-General outlined his vision for the future operation of the Secretariat, establishing a clear division between operational activities and activities related to policy design. Mexico noted with appreciation that no additional resources were requested to implement the proposals. It also welcomed the focus on activities in the field and on the need for increased delegation of authority to enhance the flexibility of procedures for mandate implementation, including the information and communications (ICT) strategy, while ensuring transparency and accountability. In addition, the Secretary-General's proposal to implement a global service delivery model by establishing shared regional service centres in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas would help decentralize the Organization's support services, improve the Secretariat's efficiency, functioning and response capacity, and, with the right equipment and staffing, enable more agile mandate implementation.

21. **Ms. Norman-Chalet** (United States of America) paid a tribute to the men and women who had served in peacekeeping missions, including those who had given their lives in the cause of peace. United Nations peacekeeping was essential to maintaining international peace and security. The Committee was responsible for working in partnership with the Secretariat to ensure that peacekeeping mandates were implemented in an effective, efficient manner and that uniformed and civilian personnel were held to the highest standards. Given that the majority of peacekeeping personnel were deployed in active conflict zones, improving efficiency, effectiveness and performance entailed ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers; protecting civilians from violence; supporting the extension of State authority; and promoting human rights. Member States' significant investments in peacekeeping missions must produce demonstrable results in those areas.

22. Member States had a duty to ensure the efficient use of resources contributed by taxpayers. In that connection, her delegation was carefully examining the Secretary-General's proposed peacekeeping budget of $7.26 billion for 2018/19, which represented an overall decrease of less than one percent compared with the budget for 2017/18. She appreciated the Secretary-General's 2017 review of air operations, and other efforts of the Secretariat and peacekeeping missions to ensure a clear link between resources and mandated activities, achieve cost savings, and implement

structural changes to address inefficiencies. Peacekeeping budgets should represent actual requirements, be based on realistic planning assumptions and reflect benefits realized from ongoing management initiatives.

23. Her delegation supported the Secretary-General's efforts to improve overall mission performance, as well as the performance of individual civilian, military and police components and of support staff at Headquarters. Clear performance standards and accountability measures must be in place in order to inform Member States' decisions regarding mission resources. The United States was committed to initiatives that improved peacekeeping by ensuring the required capabilities; strengthening accountability for poor performance and misconduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse; enhancing mission leadership; improving planning and analysis; and integrating modern technology.

24. The effectiveness and efficiency of peacekeeping must be improved as part of broader organizational reform efforts. Her delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to reforming the United Nations and looked forward to considering how his proposed reform of the peace and security architecture would strengthen the Organization's ability to plan, manage and support missions and facilitate transitions. It would also examine the reporting lines proposed with a view to ensuring the alignment of policy and operations. The United States also looked forward to examining how the Secretary-General's management reform proposals would improve processes, strengthen accountability and make best use of the systems and strategies in place, including the Umoja enterprise resource planning system and the ICT strategy. She thanked the Secretary-General and his staff for seeking to ensure the alignment of all reform initiatives, including the global service delivery model, the ICT strategy and the accountability system.

25. **Mr. Munir** (Pakistan) said that peacekeeping was essential to the international community's efforts to address complex threats to peace, and had been instrumental in returning such countries as Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Timor-Leste to stability. Pakistan was one of the largest and most consistent contributors to peacekeeping, having provided over 172,000 troops, of whom 156 had made the ultimate sacrifice, since 1960. Over 6,000 Pakistani peacekeepers were currently active in various operations, and the headquarters of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which monitored the line of control in the disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, was located in Pakistan for six months of the year. The Centre for International Peace and Stability in Islamabad trained peacekeepers from Pakistan and other troop- and police-contributing countries. Such contributions to international peace and security demonstrated the adherence of Pakistan to the ideals of the Charter.

26. Conflicts continued to rage around the world, civilian lives were under threat and people had been displaced by war and persecution. Peacekeepers now came under direct attack, which had previously been unthinkable; in 2017, 59 had lost their lives in violent acts, compared to 34 in 2016. As the threat changed, peacekeeping was also being transformed, which necessitated wisdom and courage. The mantra of doing more with less was unsustainable and did not address the complexity of the threat. Adequate financing was essential to mandate fulfilment, and underfunding compromised the safety and security of peacekeepers and civilians. The contributions to peacekeeping financing of the permanent members of the Security Council should be in keeping with their special responsibilities for the maintenance of peace and security, reaffirmed in General Assembly resolution 70/246. Political engagement, integrated solutions and conflict analysis were necessary to the success of peacekeeping missions. Consultations among all stakeholders were essential, and triangular cooperation between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council must be improved. The Organization must take a capacity-driven approach to peacekeeping by providing professional training, appropriate equipment and well-thought-out strategies to ensure success on the ground. Accountability and transparency were essential to mandate reviews, which must be based on lessons learned from the past. Lastly, troop- and police-contributing countries should be represented at the leadership and senior levels in the field and at Headquarters in a manner commensurate with their contributions to peacekeeping. Pakistan would continue to serve as an agent of peace and security for those affected by conflict.

27. **Mr. Hoshino** (Japan) said that the Committee should give the highest priority at the current part of the resumed session to approving the peacekeeping budget by the start of the fiscal year on 1 July. The effective, efficient and accountable management of United Nations peacekeeping, which was ultimately funded by taxpayers, was essential to the Organization's sustainability and credibility. His delegation would scrutinize the Secretary-General's proposals to ensure that peacekeeping budgets reflected the resources actually required to fulfil Security Council mandates, and would seek detailed information regarding the ways

in which the Secretariat was held accountable for misconduct, particularly sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, in non-Secretariat entities that were funded through transfers from the peacekeeping budget. Such misconduct would undermine Member States' collective investment and the services of peacekeepers. The Secretary-General's reform must succeed; Member States must maintain the momentum, reach consensus and take a decision at the current session to overcome bureaucracy and make the United Nations more effective, efficient and accountable.

28. **Mr. Khalizov** (Russian Federation) said that, given the Committee's unprecedented workload at the current part of the resumed session, documentation must be issued in good time, in accordance with the established rules and procedures. The level of the proposed resources for peacekeeping and the associated administrative support structure for 2018/19 was somewhat lower than the appropriations approved in 2017, which had in turn been significantly lower than the Secretary-General's initial estimates that year. The search for further economies in peacekeeping should therefore be focused on increasing efficiency and accountability in the Secretariat and mission management, without prejudice to the fulfilment of Security Council mandates. Given the steady reduction in the resources allocated to peacekeeping, the process by which those resources were used to meet the Organization's needs should be monitored. When decisions were taken on the allocation of resources to missions, the specific characteristics of each mission should be considered.

29. His delegation looked forward to discussing the Secretary-General's proposed reform. All proposals for the reorganization of the United Nations should be addressed in a coordinated manner, and any decisions on the reform should be based on a clear understanding of the associated costs and consequences for the Organization's operations. The reform processes should be implemented in accordance with the current balance of powers between the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. The Member States must retain full control over the reorganization; in particular, the Secretariat's accountability to the intergovernmental bodies should be strengthened.

30. His delegation was concerned about the Committee's ability to take well-founded decisions on the matters before it, which also included the transparency of peacekeeping, the revised budget for the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the global service delivery model and the implementation of the ICT strategy, in the short time allotted.

31. **Mr. Fu** Daopeng (China) said that peacekeeping operations were critical to maintaining international peace and security. In the 70 years since the start of United Nations peacekeeping, 1 million peacekeepers had participated in 71 operations and more than 3,500 had sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. China was the second largest troop-contributing country among the current Security Council members and the second-largest financial contributor. The 2,491 Chinese peacekeepers active in various operations worked diligently in complex security situations and harsh conditions to maintain peace and protect civilians, winning praise for the United Nations. China paid a tribute to all peacekeepers who had contributed to United Nations operations.

32. Financial resources were the foundation of the Organization's governance. The Committee should take a factual, scientific and prudent approach to peacekeeping budgeting to provide the necessary financial resources for the fulfilment of Security Council mandates. Although the Secretary-General's initial 2018/19 peacekeeping budget proposal had been lower than amount appropriated in 2017/18, he had subsequently submitted additional requirements for the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), which had resulted in the 2018/19 budget being slightly higher than that of the previous period. The Board of Auditors' recommendations on the previous year's peacekeeping budget would serve as a reference to Member States in considering the current proposal, and should be promptly implemented by the Secretariat.

33. The Secretary-General's reforms, which must serve the interests of the Member States and strengthen the role of the United Nations in the global governance system, should be based on extensive consultations to maximize consensus; safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter and the basic norms governing international relations; address developing countries' concerns; and improve the Organization's delivery capacity and operational efficiency. The restructuring of the Secretariat should increase efficiency and effectiveness, enhance coordination, facilitate Member State participation in and guidance on the allocation of budgetary resources and internal management, and strengthen accountability and oversight. The reform should have no time limit; the pace should depend on the quality of the proposals and the progress of consultation with Member States. The reform programme must be based on sound arguments, fully validated and thoroughly discussed by the Member States to identify the most scientific, operable initiatives.

34. The concerns of host countries and troop- and police-contributing countries must be addressed, and the principles of the Charter and of United Nations peacekeeping operations must be upheld. Peacekeeping missions must respect the sovereignty of and communicate better with host countries to win those countries' trust and to work smoothly. The Secretary-General's steps to advance gender equality had brought visible results; as troop- and police-contributing countries had made significant contributions to United Nations peacekeeping and were familiar with the operation of peacekeeping missions, the Secretariat should give priority to their candidates in the recruitment of peacekeeping staff.

35. The financial difficulties of the United Nations must be overcome. The Organization faced severe financial challenges, with a glaring discrepancy between its limited financial resources and the need to strengthen its role. The peacekeeping budget was also greatly in arrears; Member States must pay all assessments on time, in full and without conditions. Countries with the capacity to pay, particularly those with considerable amounts outstanding, should do so as soon as possible. The Secretariat must strengthen budget management, respect the budget limit, exercise financial discipline and utilize resources more efficiently to make the best use of every penny contributed by taxpayers. The delays in the preparation of documentation for the current part of the resumed session would affect the Committee's deliberations. The Secretariat should issue documents as early as possible to support the consultations.

36. **Ms. Medina** (Norway) said that the current part of the resumed session could be the most decisive in decades. Decisions must be made on two interlinked reforms that were essential to improving the United Nations response to challenges in international peace and security, and on the global service delivery model, the accountability system, and the organizational and budgetary changes needed for a major shift in the Organization's working culture. The Committee must also respond to the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. With regard to the peacekeeping budget, Member States had a shared interest in ensuring that missions were properly equipped and resourced. Although her delegation would focus on UNMISS, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), MINUJUSTH, UNSOS and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), whose headquarters were in countries in which Norway had a long-standing engagement, it would participate in the negotiations on other peacekeeping operations and on cross-cutting issues, since all missions were equally important in "rightsizing" the overall budget. Her Government supported a robust United Nations peacekeeping budget. It was committed to budgetary discipline and the optimization of peacekeeping resources, but warned against arbitrary cuts that undermined the fulfilment of mandates. As the Committee needed sufficient time to conclude its discussion of the many matters before it, she urged the Bureau to formally extend the current part of the resumed session.

37. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work on the understanding that adjustments would be made as necessary during the course of the session.

38. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees

39. **The Chair** said that Mr. Yazdani (Islamic Republic of Iran) had resigned from the office of Vice-Chair of the Committee with effect from 22 March 2018. In accordance with rule 105 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee was invited to elect a new Vice-Chair from the Asia-Pacific States for the unexpired term. Those States had endorsed the nomination of Mr. Gohar (Pakistan). In the absence of other candidates, he took it that the Committee wished to proceed with the election by acclamation.

40. *It was so decided.*

41. He took it that the Committee wished to elect by acclamation the candidate proposed, with effect from the date of election to the end of the current session.

42. *It was so decided.*

43. *Mr. Gohar (Pakistan) was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee by acclamation.*

Agenda item 149: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2017 (A/72/649 and A/72/838)

Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/72/639, A/72/777 and A/72/789/Add.9; A/C.5/72/21 and A/C.5/72/23)

44. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June

2017 (A/72/649), said that the report provided information regarding 29 missions. As at 30 June 2017, 24 missions had had net cash surpluses, totalling $85.3 million, and 5 had had net cash deficits, totalling $86.0 million. Pending the receipt of outstanding assessed contributions, troop-contributing countries were owed $62.9 million. The Secretary-General had made proposals in his reports on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions at the sixty-sixth, sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions (A/66/665, A/67/739 and A/68/666) to address the outstanding dues to Member States in respect of contingent-owned equipment and letters of assist for closed missions with cash deficits. He had also proposed, in his reports on the matter at the sixty-seventh, sixty-eighth, sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions (A/67/739, A/68/666, A/69/659 and A/70/552), to address cash issues in active missions by authorizing temporary cross-borrowing between such missions. As an alternative, he had proposed the establishment of a working capital fund for peacekeeping operations (A/68/666, A/69/659 and A/70/552). As the General Assembly had deferred consideration of those proposals, the Secretary-General in his current report provided a factual update on the financial information contained in his previous reports (A/68/666, A/69/659, A/70/552 and A/71/652).

45. Cash surpluses had been used to alleviate occasional shortfalls in active operations in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Peak borrowings, which usually occurred in July and August, had declined from $43.0 million in August 2014 to $35.1 million in July 2017. Although circumstances had improved in recent years, some active missions, particularly MINURSO and UNMIK, needed to borrow temporarily from closed missions to meet cash shortages owing to outstanding assessments. The balance of cross-borrowings at the end of March 2018 had been $22.5 million. The liquidity of active operations was not directly linked to cash surpluses in closed missions, but, given the liquidity problems faced by some active missions, particularly MINURSO and UNMIK, the Secretary-General maintained the proposal made in his previous reports that the General Assembly should authorize temporary borrowing between active missions, or that a working capital fund should be established to address the cash requirements of active peacekeeping operations. If no new mechanism was approved, the General Assembly was requested to allow the retention of the net cash balance in 24 closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2017.

46. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/639) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/777) for the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda, she said that the Centre provided the participating missions with shared services, including transactions related to human resources, finance, movement and control, personnel and cargo transport, and ICT support. The centralization of those functions meant that they could be carried out more effectively as a result of process integration, specialization, standardization and re-engineering. The Centre's clients were eight peacekeeping operations and seven special political missions. Since November 2016, the Centre had also provided payroll services to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

47. The Centre had standardized administrative processes and had been particularly involved in the implementation of Umoja, most recently the deployment of cluster 5 and the launch of the asset and property management modules, and the East African corridor supply chain management project. For the 2018/19 period, the proposed organizational restructuring of the Centre would result in the provision of more customer-centric, standardized, timely and high-quality services. The proposed 2018/19 budget was $35.2 million, 6.7 per cent more than the approved resources for 2017/18. The increase was attributable mainly to the application, under civilian personnel, of lower vacancy rates for international staff and United Nations Volunteers, partly offset by a net reduction of 19 posts and positions.

48. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions as at 30 June 2017 (A/72/838), said that the General Assembly, in its decision 71/546 C, had deferred until the current session consideration of the six previous reports of the Secretary-General (A/66/665, A/67/739, A/68/666, A/69/659, A/70/552 and A/71/652) and of the Advisory Committee (A/66/713, A/67/837, A/68/837, A/69/827, A/70/829 and A/71/856) on the updated financial position of closed peacekeeping missions. The Advisory Committee reiterated its observations and recommendations on the proposals made by the Secretary-General since the sixty-sixth session. The

Assembly had repeatedly called for Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions. The decline in peak levels of borrowing by active peacekeeping missions reflected more timely receipt of such contributions. The Advisory Committee recommended that the net cash balance proposed for retention to cover the temporary borrowing needs of active missions should be reduced to $40.0 million, the highest level of borrowing in the previous three calendar years, and that any available cash surplus over that amount should be returned to Member States.

49. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the Regional Service Centre in Entebbe, Uganda (A/72/789/Add.9), he said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $2,225,900 in the proposed budget of the Centre. The Secretary-General proposed the reorganization of the Centre into four service delivery sections, which would result in a number of staffing changes. The Advisory Committee recommended the abolishment of a post of Service Delivery Manager established as part of the restructuring proposed by the Secretary-General in the 2017/18 period, which had not been implemented. It also recommended against the proposed establishment of two other posts. Under civilian personnel, the Advisory Committee recommended that the proposed 2018/19 vacancy rates for international staff, National Professional Officers and national General Service staff should be brought into line with actual vacancy rates. The Advisory Committee made other observations and recommendations in its report, including under operational costs.

50. **The Chair** drew attention to the notes by the Secretary-General on the approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 (A/C.5/72/21) and on the proposed budgetary levels for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/C.5/72/23).

51. **Mr. Alsayed** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the cash deficits in several closed peacekeeping missions as a result of Member States' non-payment of arrears had caused the prolonged, unacceptable non-payment of amounts owed to other Member States, particularly troop- and police-contributing countries. Member States were obliged under the Charter to pay their assessed contributions in full, without conditions and in a timely manner. Member States in arrears with their assessed contributions to closed peacekeeping missions should pay them expeditiously. He requested the Secretary-General to include, in his future reports on the matter, complete information regarding the Member States in arrears and the amounts due in respect of the 29 closed operations. The Group was also concerned about the continued borrowing from closed missions to meet the cash requirements of active missions, which also resulted from Member States' failure to pay their assessed contributions. In General Assembly resolution 65/293, the Secretary-General had been requested to submit proposals to address outstanding payments to Member States in respect of closed operations with cash deficits. The Group stood ready to explore options for sustainably solving the problem.

52. The Regional Service Centre had done important work in providing human resources, administrative and financial services to missions in the region, and the Group looked forward to thorough consideration of the Centre's 2018/19 financing at the current part of the resumed session. The Group welcomed the participation of the Centre in the East African corridor project, and looked forward to obtaining more information regarding the scope of the project and the ways in which it could be expanded beyond the six missions currently involved.

53. The Group welcomed the proposed reorganization of the Centre, in line with the recommendations made in the independent review of the shared services managed by the Department of Field Support, into four service-delivery sections. Before the new arrangement was introduced, however, the Group would seek further information regarding the reasons for which the restructuring proposed for 2017/18 had not been fully implemented. The new structure should be adequately staffed and the Centre should have the resources needed to work effectively. The nationalization of Field Service posts should resume as soon as possible. The Group would seek clarification regarding the extent to which the Centre's governance structure was consistent with the decision in General Assembly resolution 69/307 to give the Centre operational and managerial independence. The Secretary-General should review the coordination between the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre and the Strategic Air Operations Centre at the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi, Italy, and clarify the transfer of functions to the Transportation and Movements Integrated Control Centre.

54. **Ms. Nalwanga** (Uganda), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that the Centre's operational and managerial independence should be enhanced and permanent financing should be obtained. Given the General Assembly's investment in the Centre, the Centre's role in peacekeeping operations, including the processing of personnel benefits, mission support services, procurement and training, should be strengthened. The Group welcomed the implementation

of the East African corridor project, which should be expanded to include procurement for all peacekeeping missions in Africa. It looked forward to the enhancement of the shared services provided by the Centre and commended the Secretary-General on reorganizing the Centre as recommended in the independent review.

55. Speaking as the representative of Uganda, she said that the Centre had largely realized the Secretary-General's vision for the provision of shared services and now served more missions than any other such centre. The provision of complementary services at a single location had saved time, been cost-effective and made the Centre a one-stop shop for troops and field personnel to follow up on their entitlements. In addition, the expertise brought together at the Centre was not lost when missions were closed. The experience gained at the Centre during the implementation of the global field support strategy had provided a foundation for the expansion of shared service provision throughout the Secretariat. She hoped that the benefits of the Secretary-General's significant investment in training and infrastructure at the Centre would be harnessed by the General Assembly during the implementation of the global service delivery model.

Agenda item 150: Financing of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (A/72/644, A/72/730 and A/72/789/Add.13)

Agenda item 153: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (A/72/628, A/72/735 and A/72/789/Add.3)

56. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/644) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/730) for the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), said that the proposed 2018/19 budget of $271.1 million was 1.7 per cent higher than the approved 2017/18 resources. UNISFA would continue to support the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011 between the Government of the Republic of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement on Temporary Arrangements for the Administration and Security of the Abyei Area, allowing for returns and ensuring the protection of civilians and support for the peaceful administration of the Area, as well as support for the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism in creating a safe and demilitarized border zone. In relation to mission support, UNISFA would focus on camp improvements, environmental enhancements, security installations and the maintenance of access roads. The Force proposed to harmonize its mission support structure with those of other field missions.

57. Introducing the budget performance report for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017 (A/72/628) and the proposed budget for the period from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 (A/72/735) for UNFICYP, she said that the proposed 2018/19 budget of $55.2 million was 2.1 per cent higher than the approved 2017/18 resources. The increase was attributable primarily to the appreciation of the euro against the dollar and a one-off construction project to accommodate the relocation of military personnel. The Force's activities would continue to focus on creating conditions conducive to the achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue and a return to normal conditions.

58. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2369 (2017), a strategic review of UNFICYP had been conducted, the findings and recommendations of which were set out in the report of the Secretary-General on the matter (S/2017/1008). The proposed budget took into consideration the recommendations, which had been endorsed by the Council in its resolution 2398 (2018) and included a reduction in the military component, the repatriation of the contingent-owned armoured personnel carriers, the relocation of military personnel and the establishment of a Joint Mission Analysis Centre.

59. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNISFA (A/72/789/Add.13), said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $1.7 million in the proposed budget for the Force. The Advisory Committee recommended the abolishment of four civilian posts that had been vacant for over two years and reductions in the proposed requirements for maintenance services and official travel. UNISFA should adjust vehicle holdings to comply with the standard vehicle ratios.

60. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on UNFICYP (A/72/789/Add.3), he said that the Advisory Committee's recommendations would entail a reduction of $713,100 in the proposed budget for the Force. The Advisory Committee recommended the approval of the Secretary-General's staffing proposals. It also recommended the application of a vacancy rate of 10 per cent to the cost estimates for international staff and reductions in the resources requested under facilities and infrastructure, training, and communications and information technology.

61. **Mr. Alemu** (Ethiopia), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that a number of delegations had

visited peacekeeping missions in Africa in April 2018 and seen at first hand the challenges those missions faced in the areas of security and safety; facilities and infrastructure, including accommodation; logistical support; and medical facilities. The Group would scrutinize the budget proposals to ensure that those issues were addressed.

62. According to the Secretary-General's report on the overview of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/72/770), the United Nations currently supported 16 active peacekeeping operations, comprising 13 missions funded under individual special accounts; two long-standing missions, UNMOGIP and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), which had been established under the programme budget; and UNSOS.

63. For the 2017/18 period, the total proposed budgets had amounted to $7,972 million for peacekeeping operations, while the total approved resources had been $6,803 million. The proposed budget for 2018/19 was $277 million lower than the level proposed for the 2017/18 financial period and $980 million lower than that proposed for the 2016/17 period. Between the 2016/17 and 2018/19 periods, changing conditions in mission areas had resulted in the closure of three missions.

64. The Group welcomed the Secretary-General's call, at the African Union summit of January 2018, for African peace enforcement forces to be given adequate support, including strong mandates from the Security Council and predictable funding. With regard to the request in General Assembly resolution 70/286 for the Secretary-General to report on measures taken to expand the participation of women in peacekeeping operations, he was concerned that only 3 per cent of United Nations peacekeepers and 10 per cent of police were women, but welcomed the increase, from 22 per cent in 2016 to 46 per cent in 2017, in the proportion of women appointed heads and deputy heads of missions.

65. Quick-impact projects played an important role in supporting the implementation of mission mandates, and should be implemented in a timely, responsible and accountable way. The Group recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/293, had requested the Secretary-General to present concrete proposals and alternatives to address the perennial issue of outstanding dues owed to Member States from closed peacekeeping missions with cash deficits.

66. The Committee faced a heavy workload, but hard work, dedication, frankness and transparency in its deliberations would facilitate the timely conclusion of its work. The Group wished to discourage recourse to negotiations in small configurations behind closed doors; the work of the Committee should be conducted in an open and inclusive manner. The Committee should also complete its work within the allotted time.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.